

[RATTLERS MAKE GOOD ON PLAYOFF GUARANTEE](#)

05/31/2008 2:55 PM



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Don Montague from
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ORLANDO – The playoff-guaranteed Arizona Rattlers (7-6) became the playoff-bound Arizona Rattlers with a convincing win over the Southern Division leading Orlando Predators (8-6) in Florida Saturday night. With the win, the Rattlers clinch an American Conference playoff berth, their first since 2006.

“First and foremost, we would like to congratulate the fans, owners, coaches, players and staff of the Arizona Rattlers,” said Rattlers Head Coach **KEVIN GUY**. “You have to give credit to the players for getting it done on the field, and the assistant coaches who have been working hard to help us to get to where we are. Thanks to the owners for giving us everything we need to be successful.

“While our goal this year was, of course, to make the playoffs, our goal all along was and still is to get the highest seed we can get in the playoffs. We’re not done yet; we still have goals we want to reach.”

The Rattlers made sports history when, on October 30, 2007, the team guaranteed a trip to the playoffs to its season ticket holders. The much-famed \$2.2 million dollar promise has now been fulfilled.

“Playoffs are just the beginning,” said Rattlers Managing Partner **BRETT BOUCHY**. “We came to win championships.”

The defense dominated the first half, recording a team record four turnovers in the first 30 minutes. **DB ISAIAH TRUFANT**, who played in his first game since at Los Angeles four weeks ago, was named defensive player of the game for his efforts. Trufant rang up stats all across the board, playing a part in three of Arizona four first-half turnovers with an interception and two forced fumbles. **DL DUSTIN BARNO** single-handedly killed a fifth Orlando drive in the first half by sacking Predator QB Shane Stafford in an endzone for Barno’s first career safety. Arizona entered half-time leading 29-13.

QB MATT SAUK got the start for Arizona tonight, his first in the AFL since March 15, 2007, and had a solid outing completing 2/3 of his passes for 289 yards and six touchdowns, being named Offensive Player of the Game for his efforts. Three of those touchdowns went to **WR SIAHA BURLEY**, who snagged eight receptions for 105 yards. **WR TRANDON HARVEY** was named Ironman of the Game once again, with

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10 receptions and 192 all-purpose yards.

"Sauk did a solid job of leading the football team," said Guy. "He hadn't played in a long time and it took him a bit to get the game speed down, but we had all the confidence in the world in him."

Despite a strong first three quarters in which Arizona led by as much as 21, Orlando stormed back into the game in the fourth. **OL JOHNATHAN INGRAM**, who lined up at fullback for most of the night, rumbled for a 16 yard rushing score with just 12:16 remaining to put the Rattlers up 50-29. But behind four late two-point conversions and two defensive stops, Orlando pulled even at 53 with 44 seconds to go. However, Sauk led Arizona down the field, capping the drive with a 19 yard touchdown pass to Burley with just five seconds left on the clock.

"I knew Orlando was going to make a run," said Guy. "They are a good football team, and they are well coached. They were able to get back into the game with two point conversions; we will look at tape and get that corrected. We beat a good football team tonight."

The playoff-bound Arizona Rattlers next tackle the Kansas City Brigade in a key American Conference battle eight days from now, Sunday June 8 at the Sprint Center in Kansas City. The Rattlers will then have another long week before coming home to take on the Colorado Crush on Monday, June 16 and the Utah Blaze on Saturday, June 21 to cap the regular season. Kickoff for both games is slated for 7:00pm PT at USAirways Center.

GAME NOTES

Arizona finishes its regular season with five wins against the National Conference (5-1)...the team holds half of the American Conference's win total against its counterpart (10-28 overall)...The Rattlers became the first team in the AFL to win games with three different starting quarterbacks in 2008...Arizona is 7-1 when scoring 50 points or more in a game...5-0 when scoring over 60...Rattlers are on their first three game winning streak in over two years...Harvey moved into fifth all-time on the team's receptions list (190)...Burley moved into the ninth spot on the AFL's career receptions list...Burley also moved into the ninth spot on the AFL's all-time receiving yards list...**DL WENDALL GAINES** became the first Rattler to block an extra point this season, mid-way through the first quarter, his eighth blocked kick for his career and extending his franchise record (AFL record is 11 set by two players).

BOX SCORE

	1	2	3	4	F
Arizona Rattlers	7	22	14	17	60
Orlando Predators	6	7	16	24	53

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Passing

Arizona – Matt Sauk, 26-39, 289 yards, 6 touchdowns, 2 interceptions

Orlando – Shane Stafford, 16-32, 208 yards, 6 touchdowns

Rushing

Arizona – Johnathan Ingram, 4 rushes, 25 yards, 1 touchdown

Orlando – Jake Eaton, 2 rushes, 4 yards

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Receiving

Arizona – Siaha Burley, 8 receptions, 105 yards, 3 touchdowns

Orlando – T.T. Toliver, 8 receptions, 105 yards, 2 touchdowns

Defense

Arizona – Isaiah Trufant, 6 tackles, 2 forced fumbles, 1 interception, 1 pass breakup

Orlando – Ahmad Carroll, 8 tackles, 2 pass breakups

PLAYERS OF THE GAME

Offensive – QB Matt Sauk, Arizona

Defensive – DB Isaiah Trufant, Arizona

Ironman – WR Trandon Harvey, Arizona

The 2008 Arizona Rattlers have guaranteed their season ticket holders a trip to the playoffs. Season tickets, group tickets and premium single game tickets can be purchased by calling the Rattlers ticket hotline at 602-514-TDTD. Single game tickets are now on sale at the USAirways box office and all Ticketmaster locations. More information is available at www.azrattlers.com.



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